

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 3:13 PM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily
Subject: Stream Protection Volunteers Needed

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Protect streams and do good in your community – become a Blue Thumb volunteer! The Blue Thumb Program is a water pollution education program of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Water Quality Division. The goal of Oklahoma's Blue Thumb Program is to protect water resources against nonpoint source pollution. A Blue Thumb training session for new volunteers will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 28 and 29, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. both days on the University of Oklahoma Campus in Room 328 of Carson Engineering Center.

Blue Thumb is a water pollution education program that uses volunteers to 1) monitor streams, 2) screen groundwater, and 3) help the public understand how to protect water sources.

Blue Thumb Program Coordinator Cheryl Cheadle said "Norman really is a community known for caring about its land and water. We have good turnouts when we work with volunteers here." It helps that the University of Oklahoma has an interest in Blue Thumb and natural resource protection. The Environmental Science Student Association has been monitoring Bishop Creek downstream of the Duck Pond for the past couple of years. We are hoping to get new groups of people trained to keep the monitoring of this creek going, as well as monitoring on other creeks.

After training is completed, the volunteers typically break into small teams that meet monthly to perform stream monitoring. Blue Thumb staff returns quarterly to work with the volunteer teams. Information gathered helps the citizens learn about stream health.

Anyone with a desire to learn more or to register can contact Kim Shaw, 405-522-4738 or kim.shaw@conservation.ok.gov

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